REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration of the above-mentioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and following discussion.

1. Claim 19 has been objected to because of informalities. Applicant has corrected claim 19. Claim 19 is now believed to overcome the objection.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5 - 7, 9, 15, 16, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 32 - 34 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldwater (4,684,817) in view of De Berg (4,191,507). Claims 1, 9, 16, 33, and 38 have been deleted. Claims 2, 7, 15, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, and 34 have been amended to depend from independent claims indicated to be allowable as rewritten, as such claims 2, 7, 15, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, and 34 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 5, 6, and 32, as originally presented, depend from independent claims indicated to be allowable as amended, as such claims 5, 6, and 32 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is requested.

3. Claims 3, 4, 18, 19, 23, and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldwater in view of De Berg as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Florence (6,345,944). Claims 3 and 35 have been deleted. Claims 18, 19, and 23 have been amended to depend from independent claims indicated to be allowable as rewritten, as such claims 18, 19, and 23 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 4, as originally presented, depends from an independent claim indicated to be allowable as amended, as such claim 4 is also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is requested.

4. Claims 11, 13, 14, 30, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldwater in view of De Berg as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Yu (6,853,096). Claims 11, 13, 30, and 31 have been amended to depend from independent claims indicated to be allowable as rewritten, as such claims 11, 13, 30, and 31 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 14, as originally presented, depends from an independent claim indicated to be allowable as amended, claim 14 is also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is requested.
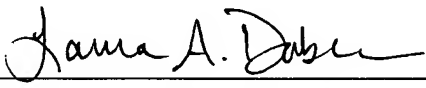
5. Claims 12 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldwater in view of De Berg as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Lord (6,413,038).

Claims 12 and 29 have been amended to depend from independent claims indicated to be allowable as rewritten, as such claims 12 and 29 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is requested.

6.   Claims 8, 10, 17, 21, 26, 27, 36, 37, 39, and 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8, 10, 17, 21, 26, and 36 have been rewritten according to the examiner's suggestion and are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 27, 37, 39, and 40 depend from independent claims believed to be in condition for allowance, and as such, are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested and allowance of claims 8, 10, 17, 21, 26, and 36, as amended, along with claims 27, 37, 39, and 40 is requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objections and rejections be removed, that amended claims 2, 7, 8, 10 - 13, inclusive, 15, 17 - 26, inclusive, 28 - 31, inclusive, 34, and 36 along with claims 4, 5, 6, 14, 27, 32, 37, 39, and 40, be passed to allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

By   _Laura A. Dable_____

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ACORD/541.19128/051021 AMENDMENT A

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